

Serial No.: 10/675,082
Examiner: Laura A. Bouchelle
Group Art Unit: 3763

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 16-30 were pending. Applicants have cancelled claims 17 and 21 and amended claims 16, 20, 22-25, 28, and 30. Applicants have added new independent claims 31 and 32. Thus, with entry of this amendment, claims 16, 18-20, and 22-32 will be pending and under examination. Support for the amendment to independent claim 16 can be found in cancelled claims 17 and 21. Claims 20, 22, and 24 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 23, 25, 28, and 30 have been amended so that they do not depend upon cancelled claim 17 but rather, upon claim 16 which now contains the claim limitations of cancelled claim 17 and cancelled claim 21. New claim 31 is original claim 26 placed into independent format. New claim 32 is original claim 27 placed into independent format.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16-20, 22-25, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As evidence of obviousness, the Examiner relies upon U.S. Patent No. 6,146,373 (Cragg) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,483 (Davey), or Cragg in view of Davey and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,166,130 (Rhee) or Cragg in view of Rhee and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0022588 (Wilkie). Claims 21, 26, and 27 were deemed allowable over the prior art if written in independent form but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection but in order to facilitate the prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended independent claim 16 to include the claim limitations of allowable claim 21 (and intervening claim 17). Thus, the claim limitations of claim 21 now appear in each of the pending claims 16-30.

Applicants have also added new claims 31 and 32 wherein the subject matter of allowable claims 26 and 27, respectively, appears in independent format.

In light of the amendments, Applicants state that the rejection under 103(a) has been obviated and all outstanding issues have been resolved.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims (16, 18-20, and 22-32) are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 571-273-8300 on 1/5/07.

Marjorie Scariati

(Printed Name of Person Sending Correspondence)


(Signature)